

Old Colony (now New York, New Haven and  
Hartford) Railroad Station  
North Easton  
Bristol County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-663

HABS  
MASS  
3-EATON

1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## OLD COLONY (NOW NEW YORK, NEW HAVEN AND HARTFORD) RAILROAD STATION

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MASS  
3-EATON  
1-

Address: North Easton, Bristol County, Massachusetts

Present Owner: New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad,  
New Haven, Connecticut.

Present Use: The building is boarded up and apparently not  
in use.

Brief Statement  
of Significance: Commissioned in 1881 by the former Old Colony  
Railroad, this building was designed by H. H.  
Richardson, and is similar to a series of stations  
he designed at the same time for the Boston and  
Albany Railroad.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Originally owned by the Old Colony Railroad; subsequently owned by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad.
2. Date of erection: Commissioned in November 1881.
3. Architect: Henry Hobson Richardson.
4. Sources of information: Henry Russell Hitchcock, Jr.,  
The Architecture of H. H. Richardson and His Times  
(New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 1936).pp.226, 257.

- B. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: Archives of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad in New Haven, Connecticut. These include records of earlier lines taken over by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

## A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This is a medium-sized station, one story high, with the heavy masonry and dominant roof characteristic of Richardson's work.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Layout and orientation: This a medium-sized rectangular building, one story high. The long axis of the building runs north-south, and the train platform is on the west side of the building.
2. Foundations: Smooth faced masonry with rounded top edge.
3. Wall construction: Rough faced, random ashlar of squared gray granite with red granite belt course and trim.
4. Porches: A porte-cochere projects from the center of the building on the east side opposite the train platform. The outer corners have large masonry piers supporting the roof.
5. Chimneys: Rough ashlar chimney in center of roof projecting at the ridge line.
6. Openings: Finished with rough faced ashlar masonry of a red hue. The doors on both sides are set in wide, semi-circular arches, finished on the face with rough-faced stone, and on the under surface with smooth, or dressed, stone ornamented with a roll molding. The entire space around the doors within the arches is filled with windows (now boarded up), with carved and molded mullions and transoms.
7. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: T-shaped drip roof covered with slate, with the short stem of the T forming the roof of the porte-cochere.
  - b. Eaves: The eaves, supported by wooden brackets, project deeply on all sides to shelter the platforms. The simple wood brackets, rather light in appearance, are supported on stone corbels.
  - c. Dormer: Two dormers on platform front with hip roofs and each with five windows.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: The building is symmetrical with a central hall running from the front entrance in the porte-cochere to a ticket office on the opposite side of the building, and with waiting rooms on either side.
2. Flooring: Tile.

3. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls are finished with vertical wood sheathing to the height of the doorways. The narrow boards have molded faces and double beaded edges. There is a molded wood baseboard and a wide molded band at the top of the wood sheathing. The walls above the sheathing are plastered, and the ceilings are covered with narrow, beaded boarding.
4. Doorways and doors: Wood doors have wide, sunk panels arranged one above the other.
5. Trim: Molded wood trim.
6. Hardware: Doors have knobs and butt hinges.
7. Lighting: Modern electrical fixtures.
8. Heating: Central heating with radiators.

D. Site

1. General setting: The station is in an open, level area with tracks on one side and street on the other.
2. Landscaping: Informal with lawn, trees and shrubs.

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Society for the Preservation of  
New England Antiquities  
Boston, Massachusetts - January 1960